During the Age of **Enlightenment**, philosophes challenged some of the old ideas about government such as **absolutism**, which gave monarchs the power to rule as unchecked **sovereigns** over the public. **Philosophes** stressed the idea of **natural rights** and **liberty**, which gradually led to people rebelling against government **tyranny**. They also challenged the authority of the Church, as **deists** like Thomas Jefferson said that God should be honored through scientific study, rather than organized religion.